

Galatians 5:1

For freedom Christ has set us free;  
stand firm therefore,  
and do not submit again  
to a yoke of slavery.

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— our own as well as others!

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John 3:16

For God so loved the world,  
    that he gave his only Son,  
    that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have eternal life.

1 John 2:15-16

Do not love the world or anything in the world.

If anyone loves the world,  
the love of the Father is not in him.

For everything in the world –  
the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes  
and the boasting of what he has and does –  
comes not from the Father but from the world.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him  
should not perish but have eternal life...

Whoever believes in him is not condemned,  
but whoever does not believe is condemned already,  
because he has not believed in the name  
of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment:  
the light has come into the world,  
and people loved the darkness rather than the light  
because their deeds were evil.

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world;  
now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

# The Serpent King in the Usurped Garden



1 John 3:8

The reason the Son of God appeared  
was to destroy the works of the devil.

“If only it were all so simple!  
If only there were evil people somewhere  
insidiously committing evil deeds,  
and it were necessary only to separate them  
from the rest of us and destroy them.  
But the line dividing good and evil cuts  
through the heart of every human being.

“And who is willing to destroy  
a piece of his own heart?”

~Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn  
The Gulag Archipelago

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to boast  
except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by which the world has been crucified to me,  
and I to the world.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

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to a yoke of slavery.

1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me,”

but not all things are helpful.

“All things are lawful for me,”

but I will not be enslaved by anything.

1 Corinthians 10:23:

“All things are lawful,”

but not all things are helpful.

“All things are lawful,”

but not all things build up.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Now concerning food offered to idols:  
we know that “all of us possess knowledge.”  
This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up.

If anyone imagines that he knows something,  
he does not yet know as he ought to know.

But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.”

For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth – as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” – yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:7-8

However, not all possess this knowledge.  
But some, through former association with idols,  
eat food as really offered to an idol,  
and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.

Food will not commend us to God.  
We are no worse off if we do not eat,  
and no better off if we do.

1 Corinthians 8:9-10

But take care that this right of yours  
does not somehow become  
a stumbling block to the weak.

For if anyone sees you who have knowledge  
eating in an idol's temple,  
will he not be encouraged,  
if his conscience is weak,  
to eat food offered to idols?

1 Corinthians 8:11-13

And so by your knowledge  
this weak person is destroyed,  
the brother for whom Christ died.

Thus, sinning against your brothers  
and wounding their conscience when it is weak,  
you sin against Christ.

Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble,  
I will never eat meat,  
lest I make my brother stumble.

Mark 7:6-9

He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: ‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’

You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

And he said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!”

Matthew 23:13

“Woe to you,  
teachers of the law and Pharisees,  
you hypocrites!

“You shut the kingdom of heaven in men’s faces.  
You yourselves do not enter,  
nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”

Matthew 15:12-14

Then the disciples came to him and asked,  
“Do you know that the Pharisees were offended  
when they heard this?”

He replied, “Every plant  
that my heavenly Father has not planted  
will be pulled up by the roots.

“Leave them; they are blind guides.  
If a blind man leads a blind man,  
both will fall into a pit.”

Galatians 2:3

But even Titus, who was with me,  
was not forced to be circumcised,  
though he was a Greek.

Acts 16:3

Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him,  
and he took him and circumcised him  
because of the Jews who were in those places,  
for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

For though I am free from all,  
I have made myself a servant to all,  
that I might win more of them.

To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews.  
To those under the law I became as one under the law  
(though not being myself under the law)  
that I might win those under the law.  
To those outside the law I became as one  
outside the law (not being outside the law of God  
but under the law of Christ)  
that I might win those outside the law.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

To the weak I became weak,  
that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people,  
that by all means I might save some.  
I do it all for the sake of the gospel,  
that I may share with them in its blessings.

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand,  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.